Capital contribution to Co-operative sugar factories and Spinning Mills

814. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 292 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for granting capital contribution to the State Governments to promote co-operative sugar factories and co-operative spinning mills in 1991-92 and also in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of proposals of spinning co-operatives, sugar co-operatives from various States that have been received and what is the capital cost and share contribution required and whether there is any proposal to advise financing institutions to consider these proposals sympathetically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A total provision of Rs. 40 crores has been made for granting capital contribution to the State Governments to promote Cooperative Sugar Factories (Rs. 30 crores) and Cooperative Spinning Mills (Rs. 10 crores) in 1991-92. Eighth Plan allocations have not been finalised by the Planning Commission. Therefore, it is not possible to say anything at this stage about the 8th Plan allocations and their adequacy for the projects envisaged.

(b) 4 proposals for Spinning Cooperatives and 11 proposals for Sugar Cooperatives from different States have been received by National Cooperative Development Corporation. Capital cost of 4 Spinning Mills is Rs. 72.24 crores. Capital cost of 11 Sugar Mills is Rs. 293.35 crores.

Share contribution required in respect of:—

4 Spinning Mills is Rs. 17.21 crores and 11 Sugar Mills is Rs. 55.31 crores. There is no proposal to advise the Financing Institutions to consider sympathetically the proposals from cooperative sugar factories and cooperative spinning mills. Financing Institutions look into the techno-economic feasibility and financial viability of the project before agreeing to grant financial assistance.

Involvement of sugar co-operatives in FERA violation

815. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Express News, Pune dated 4th September, 1991 under the caption "Sugar Co-operatives involved in FERA violation" and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that many other co-operative sugar factories in the country are involved in acts of corruption and mis-management and if so, whether the Central Government propose to evolve certain guidelines in consultation with the State Government with a view to improve the image of the co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. The News item "Sugar Cooperatives involved in FERA violation" was published in Indian Express on 5-9-91. Enquiries are being made by the Enforcement Directorate, Deptt. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, to verify the facts concerning allegations contained in the report. Only on completion of enquires will the correct position regarding alleged FERA violation be known.

(b) A complaint was received regarding certain irregularities in cooperative sugar factories in Western Maharashtra and also regarding release of 15000 bags of levy sugar to Madhya Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation without proper release order. Both these cases have been referred to Government of Maharashtra for sending a report, which is still awaited.

Action has been initiated to strengthen and Streamline the working of cooperatives by initiating a Business Development Planning Programme for primary cooperative societies, which seeks to enhance member participation and restore the viability of these societies. A draft Model Cooperative Law has also been prepared which aims to restore the autonomy and democratic functioning of cooperatives and to ensure timely elections.

Decline in cotton production

@816. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in cotton production this year;

(b) if so, the number of bales of cotton produced in the country during the current year and the comparative figures for the previous three years;

(c) what are the reasons for such sharp fall in cotton production; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that cotton and cotton yarn are available to handloom and powerloom weavers in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices?

@Previously Unstarred Question 245, transferred from 25th November, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The estimated production of cotton in the country for the previous three years is as follows:

Year	Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each
1988-89	87.44
1989-90 (revised)	114.22
1990-91 (final)	97.59

The final estimates of production of cotton for the current year i.e. 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the current assessment, the production of cotton during 1991-92 is expected to be higher than that of the year 1990-91.

(c) The fall in production of cotton during 1990-91 as compared to previous year was on account of pest (heliothis) attack at the flowering stage of the crop in the major growing districts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(d) Cotton is not used directly by Handloom and Powerloom weavers. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by persuading the spinning mills in the Cooperative, Private and State sectors to supply Hank yarn to Handloom weavers at prebudget prices.

Production and consumption of cereals and pulses

817. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of ARICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the per capita production and consumption of Cereals and pulses during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) what is the stock position of food grains at present, whether it is sufficient to meet the requirement of the consumers in the country; and